

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks contained herein in response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 31, 2006. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 31 – 39 and 41 – 47 remain pending. In particular, Applicants amend claims 33, 39, 41 and 45 and cancel claim 40 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants cancel claim 40 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the cancelled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Objected Claims 33 and 45

Claims 33 and 45 were objected to because of informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 33 and 45 as requested in the Office Action.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Chen* (U.S. 6,202,050 B1). In addition, claim 40 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled claim 40 and amended claim 39 to include the previous

elements of cancelled claim 40. Consequently, Applicants submit that amended claim 39 is allowable, as is claim 41 since it depends from claim 39. In addition, claim 41 has been amended to correct an additional informality. While Applicants have amended claim 39 in order to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants maintain that claims 39 and 41 were also allowable in their previous forms; thus, Applicants do not admit that claims 39 and 41 in their previous form were anticipated by *Chen*.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and Official Notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well-known for the particular and specific reasons that the claimed combinations are too complex to support such conclusions and because the Office Action does not include specific findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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